

Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2010

Remarks at a United States-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders Meeting in New York City

September 24, 2010

President Obama. Well, good afternoon, everyone. To all the leaders who are here as well as the delegations, welcome. I want to thank my fellow leaders for being here and for making this the first U.S.-ASEAN leaders meeting to take place in the United States. This reflects ASEAN's growing importance and the unprecedented cooperation between ASEAN and the United States.

As a Pacific nation, the United States has an enormous stake in the people and the future of Asia. The region is home to some of our largest trading partners and buys many of our exports, supporting millions of American jobs. We need partnerships with Asian nations to meet the challenges of our growing economy, preventing proliferation, and addressing climate change.

As President, I've, therefore, made it clear that the United States intends to play a leadership role in Asia. So we've strengthened old alliances; we've deepened new partnerships, as we are doing with China; and we've reengaged with regional organizations, including ASEAN.

Last year in Singapore, I was proud to become the first American President to meet with all 10 ASEAN leaders. Today I'm pleased to host our second meeting as we elevate our partnership to meet the shared challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

We'll focus on creating sustainable economic growth. Our trade with ASEAN countries is growing. In fact, America exports to ASEAN countries are growing twice as fast as they are to other regions, so Southeast Asia will be important to reaching my goal of doubling American exports.

Through APEC and initiatives like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we're pursuing trade relationships that benefit all our countries. And we will continue to support ASEAN's goal of creating a more effective and integrated community by 2015, which would advance regional peace and stability.

We'll also focus on deepening our political and security cooperation. ASEAN countries are increasingly playing a leadership role in the region, and ASEAN itself has the potential to be a very positive force in global affairs. That is why the United States has accepted ASEAN's invitation to join the East Asia summit, which will help us meet regional and global challenges together. And I look forward to attending the East Asia summit in Jakarta next year.

So, again, I want to thank my fellow leaders for being here. And I look forward to sustaining our momentum on my visits in November to Indonesia, Korea, and Japan, where we'll work together at the APEC summit to ensure strong, sustainable, and balanced economic growth.

With that, I'd invite President Triet of Vietnam, the ASEAN chair this past year, to offer a few words as well. And during that time, I suspect that lunch will be served.

President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam. Your Excellency, President Obama, Excellencies, ASEAN leaders, on behalf of my fellow colleagues from ASEAN countries, I

want to thank Your Excellency President Obama for inviting us to the second ASEAN-U.S. leaders meeting in New York. And thank you so much for giving us the wonderful hospitality.

Over the years, and especially recently, the relations between ASEAN and the U.S. have been growing very well. And I remember the first meeting in Singapore in November 2009, and we come up with a lot of important outcomes to create favorable conditions for the growing of the relations between ASEAN and the U.S. And this time, I believe this a great opportunity for us to share the views and exchange our views on how to enhance the dialog partnership between ASEAN and the U.S. in the coming years.

Your Excellencies, the relations between ASEAN and U.S. plays a very important role to the security, peace, and development in the region. Vietnam and ASEAN always support the deepening of the relations between ASEAN and the U.S., bilaterally and multilaterally. And we want to take our relations to the next level to greater comprehensiveness and more sustenance for the peace, stability, and development of our region.

I look forward to very fruitful and productive discussions that we are going to have today in order to bring about great benefits and to lay the foundation for the growing of the relations and cooperation between our two sides.

Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. President Triet spoke in Vietnamese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

Categories: Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders.

Locations: New York City.

Names: Triet, Nguyen Minh.

Subjects: Arms and munitions : Nuclear weapons and material :: Nonproliferation efforts; Asia : Relations with U.S.; Asia : Security cooperation with U.S.; Asia : Trade with U.S.; Asia : Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); Asian Nations, Association of Southeast (ASEAN); Commerce, international : Global financial markets :: Stabilization efforts; Commerce, international : U.S. exports :: Expansion; Environment : Climate change; Indonesia : President Obama's visit; Japan : President Obama's visit; New York : President's visits; South Korea : President Obama's visit; Vietnam : President.

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